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8 March 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: General Counsel

SUBJECT : Summary of Events -
Board of Inquiry Task Force

1. On 15 February 1962, Mr. Houston called and asked me to meet with him in his office as soon as practicable. Upon arriving, Mr. Houston outlined the nature of the activity to be commenced which was, in general terms, to provide the support necessary to enable a Board of Inquiry to review the conduct of Francis Gary Powers, who had been a prisoner of the Soviets since 1 May 1960. During the course of this meeting, in which Mr. Warner and [redacted] participated, it was agreed that the first floor of East Building would be used as a headquarters for this effort.

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During the discussion Mr. Houston announced that the Board of Inquiry would consist of General Harold Bull, formerly of ONE, Mr. John Bross of DDP, and probably Judge E. Barrett Prettyman, a retired Federal jurist. Judge Prettyman, it was hoped, would preside over the Board. An Air Force observer, Colonel Leo P. Geary, would be present at all meetings of the Board.

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Support to the Board would consist of a Secretary, [redacted]

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a representative from the office of DPD/DDP, [redacted]

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a representative of CI/DDP, [redacted]; a representative

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from OS/DDS, [redacted] later replaced by [redacted]

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[redacted] and a representative from the Office of the General

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Counsel, [redacted]. Clerical and stenographic

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support would be drawn from other elements of the Agency as

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determined by the Office of Personnel.

Later in the day requests were made to the Office of Personnel for the selection and temporary assignment of stenographic help and to the Office of Logistics for office machines, furniture, and other items necessary for the task. [redacted] Chief, Building Supply, Office of Logistics, was particularly helpful in making available the needed equipment.

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At this time it appeared that the group of interrogators who had been questioning Mr. Powers would produce a large volume of material recorded on electric tapes and that these would require transcription from the tapes to the printed page. It was agreed that this material would all bear the classification equal to the most sensitive information in any item. It therefore became necessary to arrange with [redacted] OCI/CS II, for reproduction of the typed material by the secure processes available to OCI.

2. On 16 February Mr. Houston, [redacted] Mr. Gross, General Bull, and I met with Judge Prettyman at his home for a preliminary discussion of the Board's terms of reference and to discuss arrangements and procedures. All members of the Board were advised of the highly sensitive nature of the evidence and were informed that certain security clearances would be necessary as they commenced their work. Copies of the paperbound volume, "The Trial of the U-2," were left with each Board member for examination over the weekend and it was agreed that the Board would convene at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, 19 February, in East Building.

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3. Over the weekend detailed arrangements were made for office space to accommodate Board members. Arrangements were also made for Board proceedings to be recorded by tape recorder and stenotype. During this period tapes continued to arrive from the interrogation site which were transcribed by the group of stenographers detailed from various offices of the Agency and copy was being sent to OCI at frequent intervals. By Monday morning, much of the interrogation had been reproduced and was available for Board members' review.

4. Upon arrival of the Board members on 19 February, Mr. McCone, Director of Central Intelligence, addressed them briefly outlining the scope and nature of the inquiry he hoped they would conduct. In his remarks Mr. McCone emphasized that the deportment of Mr. Powers involved three areas: whether or not he had fulfilled the terms of his contract with the Central Intelligence Agency; whether his conduct while a prisoner was in consonance with the obligations of an American citizen in such a situation; and, whether or not the processes and procedures utilized by the Agency in the

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conduct of the U-2 program were sufficient. Upon Mr. McCone's departure the Board and Staff Members assembled in the conference room where a film entitled, "The Inquisitive Angel," dealing with the development of the U-2, was shown, and security clearances were administered to Judge Prettyman and General Bull.

Upon completion of these details the Board began its first formal session and called Mr. James A. Cunningham, DPD/DDP, as its first witness. Mr. Cunningham, who has been associated with the U-2 project for approximately six years, then gave the Board and staff members a general review of the project since its inception to the present time. The Board recessed for lunch and upon reconvening was presented with a proposed outline, which had been prepared by staff members over the weekend, to guide the Board in the calling of witnesses and in other matters. This was approved by the Board.

In its afternoon session, the Board called [redacted] 25X1 [redacted] who discussed recruiting procedures, and [redacted] Ph. D., of the CIA Psychiatric Staff. The Board recessed 25X1 at 1800 hours with agreement to hear the termination of [redacted] testimony on 20 February 1962.

25X1 5. After [redacted] completed his testimony on 20 February, Colonel Sheffield Edwards, Director of Security, CIA, and [redacted] of his Staff, discussed the security procedures incident to Mr. Powers' employment by CIA, and were

25X1 25X1 followed by [redacted] 25X1 [redacted] who succeeded [redacted] [redacted] then informed the Board of security measures taken 25X1 prior to the 1 May flight. [redacted] then returned to present to 25X1 the Board information on the training program completed by Mr. Powers. As its last witness for the day, the Board heard Colonel William F.

Shelton, USAF, [redacted] 25X1 Mr. Powers' 1 May flight.

25X1 6. On 21 February 1962, Colonel Shelton concluded his testimony and was followed by [redacted] 25X1 who presented information on the pre-flight intelligence briefing, by [redacted] 25X1 who informed the Board of the pre-flight operations briefing, by [redacted] 25X1 [redacted] who was the stand-by pilot for Mr. Powers on 1 May 1960, and by [redacted] 25X1 [redacted]

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[redacted]

7. The Board's morning session on 22 February consisted of reading the results of the interrogations.

Following the luncheon recess, [redacted] of the CIA Medical Staff, presented the Board with the results of a psychiatric appraisal of Mr. Powers conducted after his return from Soviet custody.

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[redacted] DPD/DDP, then presented a telegram from Mr. Clarence L. Johnson, Vice-President of Lockheed Aircraft Corporation, setting forth Mr. Johnson's technical appraisal of the incident based on a discussion he had had with Mr. Powers since his return and a study of the Gorki Park photographs.

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[redacted] advised the Board of his understanding of the mission in his role as back-up pilot. He also provided a description of the operation of a U-2 aircraft.

Mr. Powers was then introduced to the Board and presented his account of his affiliation with CIA and his various activities from the time he was employed until he was released by the Soviets.

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8. The Board's first item of business on 23 February 1962 was a viewing of the Soviet film depicting the trial of Mr. Powers in Moscow in August of 1960. Upon completion of the film, [redacted] of DPD/DDP gave the Board an account of the counter-intelligence aspects relevant to the Powers flight.

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[redacted]

9. The last meeting of the Board during the week of 19 February was held on 24 February when [redacted], TSD/DDP, appeared to discuss U. S. knowledge of Soviet interrogation methods. [redacted] was also present and participated in the hearing.

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After a short recess during which the Board devoted itself to the drafting of its report, [redacted] Deputy Chief, Interrogation Research Division, Office of Security, CIA, appeared to discuss the polygraph interview he had conducted with Mr. Powers. After hearing [redacted] the Board adjourned at 1815.

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10. During the course of the week the record of the Board hearings was transcribed by two stenotypists and copy was sent to OCI for reproduction at frequent intervals. Thus, the Board was furnished the printed version of its proceeding periodically and in time for the drafting of its report.

During this week the staff was also required to furnish support to a technical investigation unit composed of Air Force personnel headed by Lt. Gen. W. H. Blanchard, Inspector General, USAF. This group assembled on 22 February and was augmented as experts were ordered in from California, [redacted] and SAC Headquarters. The group was constituted on Mr. McCone's request to Mr. Zuckert, Secretary of the Air Force, after arrival of the telegram from Mr. Clarence L. Johnson of Lockheed. Mr. Johnson's telegram was a technical analysis of the failure of the U-2 based on an examination of photographs of the wreckage displayed at Gorki Park, Moscow, during the summer of 1960. It was Mr. McCone's conclusion that Mr. Johnson's findings should be appraised by an independent panel of experts in the field of aircraft accidents. Members of Gen. Blanchard's group included officers skilled in aircraft structure, operational procedures, and intelligence. Support to this group levied an additional burden on the Board's staff which was met by increased effort on the part of all. Material to aid in this review was delivered by courier from Burbank, California, and consisted of diagrams, studies, photographs, and destruct switches.

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The Board of Inquiry did not conduct meetings on Sunday, 25 February, thus permitting the staff to devote its efforts toward support of Gen. Blanchard's group. However, on 26 February Mr. Bross and General Bull reviewed the draft of the Board report which was then delivered to the staff for preparation in final form.

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11. The Board convened again on 27 February at 1430 hours for the purpose of signing the report which was then delivered to Mr. Houston for presentation to Mr. McCone.

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12. As a result of this discussion, Mr. McCone decided to reconvene the Board of Inquiry on 1 March 1962 in a restricted session to review the NSA evidence as compared with testimony from witnesses who had appeared before the Board. The transcript of this meeting was added to the already printed transcripts prepared earlier.

13. It became apparent that members of Congress were desirous of meeting with Agency representatives to receive a briefing on the Powers' mission and that there was a possibility of Mr. Powers' being called to appear also. To prepare for these events, members of the staff conducted an exhaustive review of events with Mr. Powers on 28 February. From this session a number of hypothetical questions were framed by the staff which were added to on Thursday and Friday. Staff members met on Friday afternoon with Mr. Houston to review these questions and the preparations made for the Congressional hearings. These preparations were again reviewed on Saturday, 3 March, and it was agreed that display material would include photographs of the interior of the cockpit, photographs of the exterior of the U-2, and maps covering the flight plan of Mr. Powers' mission. In addition, the destruct switches and a model of the U-2 would be included in the exhibits.

14. Statements were also prepared for a Presidential news release and for Mr. McCone to present to members of the Congressional committees. These were presented to Mr. McCone on 3 March and revised on Sunday, 4 March, as Mr. McCone considered it advisable to include more detail in the statement he planned to make to the Congressional committees and to add appropriate code words to protect the material. At that time the following schedule for Congressional hearings was announced:

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- a. 5 March 1962, 0900 hours, Room 313, Old House Office Building. CIA Subcommittee of the Armed Services Committee, House of Representatives, chaired by Mr. Vinson.
- b. 5 March 1962, 1030 hours, Room 212, Old Senate Office Building. CIA Committee of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Senator Russell presiding.
- c. 6 March 1962, 1030 hours, Room 212, Old Senate Office Building, Full Senate Armed Services Committee, Senator Russell presiding.
- d. 6 March 1962, 1430 hours, Room G-3, the Capitol. Foreign Affairs Committee, House of Representatives.
- e. 6 March 1962, 1500 hours, Room F-53, the Capitol. Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

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16. On 5 March Mr. McCone appeared before the CIA Subcommittees of the Armed Services Committees of both the House of Representatives and the Senate. These were separate sessions and in each case Mr. McCone was supported by Mr. Houston, Mr. Warner, and the members of Team #1. Upon completion of these hearings, it was decided to revise the Statement Concerning Francis Gary Powers and to remove the material which required code word protection. This was completed and OCI was requested to print 500 copies. These were delivered to East Building on the morning of 6 March and 200 copies were immediately dispatched to the Senate Armed Services Committee with an additional 50 copies going to the House Armed Services Committee. Immediately after these were delivered it was deemed advisable to revise the last page and to deliver copies to each member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House. The revised

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page was thermofaxed in East Building, inserted in the full Statement, and delivered to addressees by courier. Mr. Darden of the Senate Armed Services Committee prepared 250 copies of the revised page in his office for modification of the copies previously delivered to the Senate and House Armed Services Committees.

17. An additional meeting with the full Senate Armed Services Committee with press and public in attendance was held at 1400 hours on 6 March. This meeting was for the purpose of permitting Mr. Powers to present his story in public for the first time. He was accompanied by Mr. Houston and [redacted] and representatives of the Office of Security. Concurrently, Mr. McCone with Mr. Warner and Team #1 briefed the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House. Upon conclusion of this briefing, they moved to the Senate side and briefed the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate. Briefing Team #2 was in a standby status all day but was not required to participate.

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18. An additional 500 copies of the Powers Statement was printed during the night of 6-7 March for possible future distribution. The balance of the week was spent in disposition of material, supplies, and equipment.

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Board Secretary

Attachments (2)

Access List
Membership List

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ACCESS LIST

28 FEB 1962

	<u>Report</u>	<u>Transcript</u>	<u>Tapes</u>
John A. McCone	x		
Larry Houston	x	x	x
John Warner	x	x	x
Sheffield Edwards	(Informed)	x	x
E. Barrett Prettyman	x	x	x
Harold Bull	x	x	x
John Bross	x	x	x
25X1	x	x	x
	x	x	x
	x	x	x
	x	x	x
	x	x	x
	x	x	x
	x	x	x
Col Wm. M. Shelton (USAF)		x	x
25X1		x	x
25X1		Testified and present at some hearings	
25X1		Testified and present at some hearings	
25X1		Testified and present at some hearings	

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Lt Gen Wm. Blanchard (USAF)

x x

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Francis G. Powers

x x

Col Leo P Geary (USAF)

x x x

Major Harry N. Cordes (USAF)

x x

Major Hunter W. Anderson (USAF)

x x

Major James R. Bedford, Jr. (USAF)

x x

Capt Charles B. Stratton (USAF)

x x

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Informed

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STATE DEPARTMENT

General preliminary results but no technical information and no reports.

Richard H. Davis

Charles Bohlen

John Guthrie

Carl Rowan

Don Wehmeyer

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